

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7817

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (WCIWY)

REF: A. STATE 129496; B. STATE 119806

1. SUMMARY. THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (WCIWY) WILL BE HEADED BY COSMONAUT VALENTINA NIKOLAYEVA-TERESHKOVA AND WILL TOTAL ABOUT TWENTY PEOPLE. NAMES, AS AVAILABLE, ARE GIVEN BELOW. IN RETURN, THE SOVIETS ASKED FOR THE NAMES OF THE PRINCIPAL U.S. DELEGATES AND OF ANY PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS WHO WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE U.S. DELEGATION. ON THE MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE, THE SOVIETS SAY THAT THIS FORUM SHOULD AVOID ISSUES OF POLITICAL CONTENTION BUT EXPECT SOME TO COME UP ANYWAY. ACTION REQUESTED: NAMES OF PRINCIPAL U.S. DELEGATES AND DIPLOMATS. END SUMMARY.

2. GENNADIY LISOV OF THE SOVIET MFA'S INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION TOLD EMBOFF ON JUNE 4 THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE FORTHCOMING WCIWY IN MEXICO CITY WOULD BE HEADED BY COSMONAUT VALENTINA NIKOLAYEVA-TERESHKOVA, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET AND

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF SOVIET WOMEN. (NIKOLAYEVA-

TERESHKOVA IS CURRENTLY LEADING A SOVIET WOMEN'S DELEGATION TO PORTUGAL.) HER DEPUTIES WILL BE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE Z.M. KRUGLOVA AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION M.I. ZHURAVLEVA. ADVISORS WOULD INCLUDE DEPUTY PERMREP SAFRONCHUK FROM SMUN IN NEW YORK AND LISOV HIMSELF. THE TOTAL NUMBER, HE SAID, WOULD BE ABOUT TWENTY INCLUDING ALL SUPPORT PERSONNEL. OF THAT TOTAL, THREE-FIVE WOULD BE PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS. THE COMPLETE NAME LIST WAS NOT YET AVAILABLE, HE SAID, BECUASE IT HAD NOT YET BEEN FINALLY APPROVED BY THE SUPREME SOVIET. HE ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY PROVIDE A COMPARABLE LIST OF PRINCIPAL U.S. DELEGATES, AND IN ADDITION ANY PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS WHO WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING THE DELEGATION.

3. BESIDES THE USSR DELEGATION, THERE WOULD BE DELEGATIONS OF FIVE PERSONS EACH FROM THE UKRAINE AND BELORUSSIA, SAID LISOV. HE DID NOT HAVE THE NAMES, BUT SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THE DELEGATED TO BE MANINLY WOMEN OFFICIALS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

4. IN ADDITION TO THESE OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS, THE SOVIETS WOULD BE SENDING A "NON-GOVERNMENTAL" DELEGATION TO THE IWY TRIBUNE, MEETING CONCURRENTLY IN MEXICO CITY. THIS GROUP WOULD CONSISIT OF FOUR WOMEN, INCLUDING MRS. G. RATIANI WHO WORKS FOR THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER ZA RUBEZHOM (LIEF ABROAD) AND IS THE WIFE OF PRAVDA'S USA SECTION CHIEF, AND MRS. BEREZHNYAYA, WIFE OF THE DEAN OF JOURNALISM AT LENINGRAD STATE UNIVERSITY.

5. CONCERNING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE, LISOV SAID THAT MOSCOW SAW IT AS A FORUM FOR DEEPENING FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG WOMEN OF THE WORLD AND EXTENDING COOPERATION ON SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF WOMEN. HE SAID, WITHOUT PROMPTING, THAT THE MEETING SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH POLITICAL ISSUES; THAT THERE WERE OTHER MORE APPROPRIATE VENUES FOR AIRING DIFFERENCES. HE EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT POLITICAL QUESTION WOULD COME IN ANYWAY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF MEMBERS OF THE LDC DELEGATIONS, SPECIFICALLY THOSE FROM THE GROUP OF 77. HE WONDERED ALOUD WHAT THE IRANIANS HAD IN MIND WITH THEIR TALK ABOUT A COMMON
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DECLARATION AND A PERMANENT ORGANIZATION. THE LATTER IN PARTICULAR LISOV SAW AS YET ANOTHER BODY GROWING INTO A UN SPECIALIZED AGENCY.

6. LISOV DESCRIBED THREE CENTRAL PRINCIPLES TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE: FIRST, STRENGTHENING PEACE. THIS INVOLVED, LISOV SAID, EFFORTS TO REDUCE INTERNATIONAL LENSIONS AND TO MOVE TOWARDS DISARMAMENT. SECOND,

PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS LARGELY A THIRD WORLD THEME, HE SAID, AND HE EXPECTED THE LDC'S TO BRING IN THE QUESTION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AND RELATED ISSUES. THIRD, THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN. THIS IS ALSO A THIRD WORLD CONCERN, SAID LISOV, BUT THE PROBLEM IS THE OPPOSITE. IT SHOULD DEAL, HE SAID, WITH BRINING TO WOMEN IN TRADITIONAL SOCIETIES THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS FROM THE BONDS OF RELIGION AND ARCHAIC C USTOM WHICH ARE SHARED BY THOSE IN MORE MODERN SOCITIES. IF THE DISCUSSION STICKS TO THE THEMES, BROAD AREAS OF COOPERATION SHOULD EMERGE. SIMILARLY, HE SAID, THE CALL FOR SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS WILL DEPEND ON WHAT IS SPECIFIED. LISOV WAS HOPEFUL, BUT NOT OPTIMISTIC, THAT THE CONFERENCE COULD CONCENTRATE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES.

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